

Italy Fears Joint British-American Attack In North Africa

By PAUL GHALI
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BERN, May 16.—Threat of a possible American-British attack in Libya, as a relief to Russia's burden, is a real fear among Italian official circles, information here indicates.

A Rome dispatch to the reliable Tribune de Geneve points to "unusual" British moves in the Eastern Mediterranean sector.

It adds that Italians are aware of large British naval and air force concentrations in Egypt and the Suez region,

to which "heavy American contingents have lately been added," as well as the recent British reinforcement of Malta. British patrol activity in the desert is also increasing.

The Tribune's Rome correspondent asks how the Anglo-Saxons are still able to accumulate such effective in the Mediterranean, despite their Far Eastern reverses.

Italy is not afraid of such military display, states the dispatch, and adds that the axis position is such that any allied attack on north Africa would be met by "surprising resistance."

If the British, nevertheless, should dare to make that jump, the Japanese would undoubtedly benefit by it, in the Italian view.

AT THE SAME TIME, the Germans, according to the Berlin correspondent of the Basler Nachrichten today, deny that their north African commander-in-chief, Marshal Erwin Rommel, has been recalled to Berlin—as if, goes one comment, his person in north Africa could contribute to scaring off eventual British attempts.

The extreme stress the Italians lay on a possible Brit-

ish attack in Libya can be motivated by two main reasons, observers here believe:

1. Clear disappointment that the British war machine in the Near East has kept its full strength, coinciding most unpleasantly with the diminution of axis forces in the eastern Mediterranean due to the Nazi offensive on the Kerch peninsula.

2. Italian emphasis of their concern over a British attack gives the Fascists an excellent instrument with which to demand immediate gratification of their demand that France give the axis use of the north African naval base of Bizerte.

CHINESE CHECK JAPS AT RIVER

Invaders Fail to Cross Salween; Epidemic of Cholera Flares.

CHUNGKING, May 16 (U. P.).—The Chinese today stemmed Japanese efforts to cross the Salween river north of the Burma road in southern China, and outflank Yung Chang.

The Japanese had persistently tried to cross, it was reported, but the terrain was so wild and rugged it gave the Chinese the advantage. The Japanese could not use mechanized equipment, and it was not believed they could bring up heavy artillery.

(The All-India radio, heard in London, quoted military circles in Chungking that the situation in Yunnan province was stabilized.)

(A Tokyo radio communique claimed that Tengyueh, 15 miles inside the Burma-Yunnan border, had fallen into Japanese hands, along with an "enormous amount of arms and munitions.")

Cholera Becomes Epidemic

A cholera epidemic raged among refugees of the invasion of Burma and China, and authorities at Kunming appealed to all citizens to have themselves inoculated immediately.

The epidemic began when refugees started pouring into Kunming, and a survey showed that one hospital had 700 cholera cases in the last few days, though less than 100 had died.

Travelers from Yung Chang said "hundreds" of cholera stricken refugees were in every village along the road.

It was not believed that the Japanese would be able to encircle many defenders through their crossing of the Irrawaddy river near Katha last Sunday. Only a few Chinese remained in this area of Burma, it was said, and they were moving east in small groups to avoid being trapped.

Deny Leaving Burma

The British apparently have withdrawn far enough not to be threatened from Katha, but there was no confirmation here of reports that they had reached the Indian border.

(Authoritative quarters in London denied that British troops had been completely withdrawn from Burma.)

Chinese military quarters were pleased with continued allied aerial blows at the Japanese. A communique from New Delhi, India, yesterday reported that United States army bombers on Thursday had made a second daylight attack on Japanese-held Myittha airfield in northern Burma, smashing grounded planes, runways and buildings.

Royal air force bombers today made a destructive low-level attack on the Japanese airbase at Akyab, on the west Burma coast, according to a New Delhi communique.

SCOUT TROOP NOTES SILVER ANNIVERSARY

Scout Troop 82 celebrated its silver anniversary with a dinner last night at the University Park Christian church.

O. L. Hutton Jr. outlined the history of the troop and former Eagle scouts of the organization who attended were Don Shafer, Fred Richardson, Colin Dunbar, Malcolm King and John Sheedy.

During the court of honor, which followed the dinner, awards were presented to Donald Apple, William Duffey and David Sullivan. Clayton Phillips received the James Lee Frye trophy for personal inspection.

WORK OF FOUR IN CLASS PLAY CITED

Four Washington high school senior girls were cited today for excellence of interpretation in the class play, "Announcing Antonia," which was presented yesterday in the school auditorium.

Patricia Kerch was awarded first place and honorable mention was given to Blossom Arthur, Gertrude Price and Mary Bosak. Their names will be inscribed on the senior trophy.

The judges were Mrs. Vivian Stener, Manual high school; Miss Clara Ryan, Technical high school, and Walter Hickman, Arthur Jordan Conservatory of Music.

Miss Bess Sanders Wright directed the all-girl cast.

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BOMBER FALLS INTO SEA, 7 DIE

Craft Is Torn to Pieces in Crash Off California; No Bodies Found.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 16 (U. P.).—The navy today began an investigation into the death of seven members of the crew of an army bomber which crashed in the ocean off Humboldt bay while on a navy-supervised patrol flight.

The impact of the crash tore the bomber to pieces, witnesses said. Small parts of the craft were located and identified, but none of the bodies was recovered immediately.

The dead were: Lieut. W. D. Froehlingsdorf, Virginia, Minn., pilot; Ensign A. C. Maher, U. S. N. R., New Orleans, La., co-pilot; Sergt. W. J. Cassie, Chelsea, Mass.; Sergt. W. E. Andrews, Putnam, Tex.; Sergt. L. M. Christian, Shawnee, Okla.; Corp. S. E. Shaw, Richmond, Va.; Seaman Second Class J. E. Jones, radioman, Los Angeles.

SALT LAKE CITY, May 16 (U. P.).—Two army airmen were sought in the Utah desert today after they had parachuted from their crippled flying fortress which crashed 10 miles northwest of Wendover.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 16 (U. P.).—Second Lieut. Edward R. Cahill, Newark, N. J., was killed last night when his P-38 pursuit plane crashed and burned three miles north of Hamilton field, San Rafael.

RECOUNT ASKED IN 4 PRIMARY RACES

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Krug, Mr. Carter also challenged the power of "supervisors" recommended by the county political chairman, and appointed by the election commissioners, who ruled on the legality of ballots questioned by counters.

In the unofficial tabulations during the counting of ballots, Mr. Bain's victory margin over Mr. Carter was given as approximately 1100, but the canvassing board later reported that a mistake of approximately 1000 had been found in the unofficial figures, due to an adding machine mistake. This made his final official figure 2145 ahead of Mr. Carter.

Mr. Plack was represented by L. Russell Newgent and William Miller, and charged improper and illegal voting and other irregularities as well as mistakes and fraud in counting.

Last Day to Contest

Today is the deadline for the filing of recount contests, and the defendants have 10 days in which to answer.

All of the contestants filed bonds to cover the cost of the recounting, and officials to handle the work will be named by Circuit Judge Earl R. Cox.

Four years ago, when Sheriff Feeney won his contest for the Democratic nomination after he originally had been reported defeated by 2200 votes, the recounting of ballots required 33 days.

CONGRESSMAN RIDES STREETCAR AT LAST

WASHINGTON, May 16 (U. P.).—Rep. William J. Fitzgerald (D. Conn.), rode a streetcar from his home to the capitol yesterday for the first time in 25 years.

"I've decided that I may as well do what other people are going to have to do," he said. "The gasoline situation being what it is, I decided to put my car in the garage and to leave it there until it's absolutely necessary to use it."

Mr. Fitzgerald has a B-2 ration card.

Cartoons With Laugh Drive Home Need to Save Rubber

By JOSEPH L. MYLER
United Press Staff Correspondent

WASHINGTON, May 16.—A timid-looking man approached the gasoline rationing board with his hat in one hand and a cigarette lighter in the other.

"Of course," he said apologetically, "I'll only use this lighter when I'm out of matches."

Meanwhile, at the Zoo, a small boy was being carried away by a gas-filled toy balloon while his anguished mother shouted at bystanders:

Artists Organized

These incidents, among others, occurred in a series of cartoons which the office of emergency management is trying to drive home the idea that such things as gasoline and rubber are really scarce and that the public may as well be good-natured about the necessity of using them sparingly.

How the OEM's latest campaign got started is not entirely clear even to the OEM's press and periodicals section, which is conducting it.

George Lyon, former New York newspaperman and head of the section, thinks perhaps Mrs. Henry Morgenthau Jr., wife of the secretary of the treasury, should get the credit.

"She told me she had heard that the British, in giving written orders to seamen, frequently pointed them up with drawings," Mr. Lyon said. "She suggested that we ought to make use of humor, too."

The motor fuel shortage inspired a cartoon in which a salesgirl in a perfume shop is shown offering an expensive looking bottle to a prospective customer. "You'll love it," the salesgirl gushes. "It smells like gasoline."

If the cartoons are funny, the purpose behind the OEM's campaign is not. "We're very serious about it," Mr. Lyon said.

Greater Effort for War Keynotes C.I.O. Rally Here

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to back up Gen. MacArthur and our boys overseas."

George F. Addes, international secretary-treasurer of the U. A. W.-C. I. O. and chairman of the union's war policy committee, told the delegates that "we must take the lead in saving rubber—in saving on all critical materials."

"We are 100 per cent behind our commander-in-chief, Franklin D. Roosevelt," he continued. "We must increase production over and above Hitler and Hirohito. If any U. A. W. man or woman is not in sympathy with the war effort, they do not belong in our union."

Panel discussions led by government officials from Washington this morning. Newman Jeffry, chief of the labor section of the OGD, was to lead the panel on civilian defense and John Edelman of the OPA was to lead the panel discussion on rent freezing and price control.

Maj. Carl Detzer of the U. S.

army was to head the discussion on service men's welfare and Leo Goodman of the U. S. treasury was to speak on the war bond campaign.

Through Mr. Atwood, the union revealed that approximately 170,000 of its members, more than 25 per cent of the entire membership, are in the army.

On his arrival here last night, President Thomas declared that "we are not only giving the blood of our members to the fight for freedom, but we are also giving our money."

"Our union has urged every member, if possible, to put 20 per cent of his income into war bonds. One of our locals—Ford local 600—is buying \$1,300,000 worth of war bonds each month on the payroll allotment plan."

Delegates from all U. A. W. locals in Indiana and Kentucky are attending the conference. A dance will be held at 9 o'clock tonight at the Hotel Lincoln, with service men invited free of charge.

Comm. Coffin, City's Hero of Java Sea, May Visit Here

By DANIEL M. KIDNEY
Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON, May 16.—Indianapolis' most-bombed sailor left for an unnamed destination today after making a special trip here to ask for navy department superiors to speed his return to the south Pacific battlelines.

FRENCH CHEER U. S. DELEGATION

'Come Back Soon,' They Cry to Departing Envoys And Writers.

By ELEANOR PACKARD
United Press Staff Correspondent

ABOARD DIPLOMATIC TRAIN (at the Portuguese Frontier), May 16.—American newspaper correspondents came out of axis-held Europe today with the words of friendly, grim-faced Frenchmen still echoing in their ears:

"When will you come back? When you come back it means the war is over. Come back soon!"

Those cries greeted us at almost every French station through which our train passed en route from Italy to Portugal where American and axis diplomats are being exchanged after five months of war.

A Strange Salute

There was an unusual incident before we left Rome.

Col. Norman Fiske, United States military attaché at Rome, surprised the Italians by paying a farewell tribute to Italy's unknown soldier within sight of Mussolini's Palazzo Venezia.

Accompanied by detectives, Col. Fiske, wearing civilian clothes, drove in an automobile to the monument, jumped out and saluted before the detectives could intervene and said: "I salute you as one who died in the last war—fighting as an ally."

The Kharikov battle on the eastern front was spreading so swiftly that it appeared it might be the first phase of a continuous all-summer conflict expected to decide the issue in Russia.

Kharikov is a city about 10 times as large as Kerch. Before the war, Kharikov's population was almost equal that of Cincinnati, O., while Kerch was about the size of Elkhart, Ind.

Attack Near Taganrog

The Russians also were reported attacking in the Pokrovsk sector, about 15 miles north of the town of Taganrog, on the north coast of the sea of Azov, where the Germans had clung to strong defense positions since their retreat from Rostov last fall.

Other battles continued on the front northwest of Moscow and in the Leningrad sector, where 3200 Germans were reported killed in three days.

American Machines Praised

Dispatches from Moscow put special emphasis on the effective work of American and British tanks and airplanes alongside the new type Russian Voroshilov tanks and crack Stormovik anti-tank cannon planes.

There appeared to be increased fighting on the far northern Murmansk front in Russia, where American and British supplies arrive for the Red army. The German communique claimed that 8000 Russians had been killed in that sector in two weeks of fighting and that the Red army had been driven back to its original positions defending Murmansk. There was no indication, however, that the port was immediately threatened.

LAVAL REJECTS U. S. DEMANDS

Martinique Note 'Offensive' To France; Says 'Rebels' Inspired It.

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and naval forces to police requirements.

5. Placing at United States disposal under equitable conditions of French freighters presently immobilized in the Antilles.

6. Freezing of French government assets and gold in possession of the French (about \$250,000,000) for ultimate utilization by the French people.

The United States note frankly called for the colonies to act independently of Vichy.

Sees 'Rebel' Inspiration

In this connection the note, which Laval said was offensive and probably inspired by French emigres and "rebels," bluntly declared that the French possessions in the western hemisphere "could become axis bases for aggression either upon notification by the high commissioner or by arrival of a new high commissioner" and that therefore the previous accord on Martinique was no longer valid.

"It is to be expected that Germany will exercise pressure in this direction and on these possessions under Laval's orders, which orders cannot be considered as representing the free will of French authorities," the American note said.

"If certain conditions are fulfilled the United States government is prepared to deal with the high commissioner of the Antilles and French Guiana as the supreme authority in these possessions on behalf of France and under the French flag but acting independently of Vichy."

U. S. Recognized Robert

The American note added: "The United States for their part are willing to accept: The crews will be allowed to remain aboard the warships. The ships will keep the French flag and remain French property. The United States will take steps to insure the return to France of military and naval and civilian personnel who might desire to be repatriated."

"The United States will recognize Admiral George Robert as the supreme government and commander in the Antilles sea, acting in behalf of France. French tribunals and civil authorities will be maintained."

Charges 'Error' by U. S.

Laval charged the United States with a "grave psychological error" in making the proposals, which he said were "doubtless" inspired by "French emigres and rebels against their motherland, who are carrying abroad the same partisan quarrels which have already caused France so much suffering."

He said that in "doubting official statements made in the name of the French government" that Germany would not obtain the use of French ships, the American state department "adopts an attitude offensive toward our country, which intends to keep the liberty to choose its own government."

Not Dealing With Vichy, Hull Insists

WASHINGTON, May 16 (U. P.).—The neutrality negotiations at Martinique, having reached a partial agreement involving the immobilization of French warships there, today were engaged with technical economic problems expected to require some time for adjustment.

Secretary of State Cordell Hull emphasizing anew that the United States was not dealing with Pierre Laval's government at Vichy on Martinique issues, said the economic discussions included proposals regarding the French merchant ships at Martinique, Guadeloupe and French Guiana.

He appeared confident that a satisfactory agreement will be reached to neutralize effectively French possessions in the Caribbean area.

JAPS CLAIM 12,495 TAKEN IN CORREGIDOR

TOKYO, May 16 (Japanese Broadcast Recorded by U. P. at San Francisco).—An imperial headquarters communique today said that 12,495 Americans and Filipinos were captured upon the surrender of Corregidor.

There were 640 dead, the communique said.

(Earlier press dispatches to Tokyo had said broadly that of 14,000 troops on the island, 12,000 were captured and that the dead numbered 700.)

The communique reiterated earlier press claims of the capture of substantial booty, including eight airplanes.

QUIZ 2 WITH CAMERAS

ATHOL, Mass., May 16 (U. P.).—FBI agents arrived today to investigate two Brooklyn men—one described as an enemy alien—seized while photographing the plant of the L. S. Starrett Co., a tool firm engaged in war work.

WASHINGTON Calling

A Weekly Sizzleup by the Washington Staff of the Scripps-Howard Newspapers

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portation mean we can't reach this year's production again till after the war.

Hendrickson's remedy: Immediate food conservation program; supply allocation system for some foods.

CHURCHILL'S GAS-FOR-GAS warning coincided with extensive preparations here for this dreaded form of warfare. War department isn't telling its plans, but official records show two recent appropriations, totaling \$65,000,000 for chemical warfare service. Our fighting forces, congress is told, are adequately supplied with gas masks.

United nations talk about issuing their war aims in some new and simpler form. Orientals—and this means half the world's population—feel excluded by "Atlantic charter"; man-in-the-street everywhere finds it somewhat academic.

SUBMARINES IN THE ST. Lawrence have knocked a prop from under seaway advocates, who had insisted it couldn't happen.

ARMY ENGINEERS will plug, next week, for pipeline and barge canal across Florida to assure safe shipment of oil from the gulf to the Atlantic. Railroads may oppose it.

Texas oil men say they'll furnish second-hand pipe for cross-Florida line; wood is another possibility.

Some Texas oil men say there's enough steel in empty storage tanks there to build hundreds of oil barges.

Conference committee which will decide whether army pay is to be \$42 or \$50 waits sign from White House; it has asked budget bureau to send it figures on costs.

RED TAPE DEPARTMENT:

1. Investigators for provost marshal (army) do not have access to FBI files; must work roundabout through army intelligence.

2. Navy denies officers from other services access to some of its files though its own yeoman clerks handle them.

3. War department accepts judgment and reports of FBI or other skilled investigative services; navy won't; insists on own duplicating investigation.

Pattern for rationing: OPA Director Henderson's request for a force of 75,000 to 100,000 persons foreshadows greatly expanded operations, full-time paid boards in every community. OPA's staff now: About 3500. Yes, it means food staples, clothes will be rationed.

BUDGET BUREAU has bottled up its report on government publicity offices, showing annual expenditures in excess of \$25,000,000. Bureau compiled the report reluctantly when house appropriations committee insisted, sent down one copy marked confidential. Byrd economy committee may pry it loose.

MAJOR OGD WORRY: Need for able leadership of local and district defense planning activities throughout country. A recent survey showed civilian defense training lagging badly in some sections.

Hitler's not happy about Laval either, it's believed here; doesn't think he's getting enough action. He'd like to fire him and put in Marcel Deat, Jacques Doriot, or some other more determined Quisling; doesn't quite dare.

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS sub-committee will vote 3-2 to kill CCC; majority believes overhead will cost too much if corps is kept on small scale proposed by president.

DRAFT HEADQUARTERS wants congress to say whether \$40 a month, \$480 a year, proposed in adjustment and allotment bill, is enough for service man's dependent to live on; whether all with dependents shall be taken when the sum is provided. Selective service would like flexible authority; would consider whether dependent is a sister living with someone else, for instance; a wife with small but insufficient income, and so forth.

WHAT BECOMES of civil aeronautics administration, civil aeronautics board, now that army has taken over private transport planes? CAB has huge pilot training program and helps with OGD's civil air patrol. But army is setting up its own accident investigation bureau—which was CAB's job.

MADLINE TO FACE STATE STAR WITNESS

NEW YORK, May 16 (U. P.).—The state was ready today to produce the witness it expects to clinch its efforts to send Madeline Webb, her lover, and a small-time thief to the electric chair for murder.

He is Murray Hirsch, uncle of Eli Shonbrun. Miss Webb's co-defendant and boy friend, who is accused of having had a part, too, in the murder of Susan Flora Reich, a wealthy refugee, but who won a separate trial by turning state's witness.

For a week, the state had patiently built a tightening circumstantial case against the Oklahoma girl.

MEMORIAL SERVICES SET

Memorial services will be held by North Park chapter No. 404, O. E. S., at 7:45 p. m. tomorrow at the Masonic temple, 30th and Clifton sts. Esther Stille is worthy matron and Arthur McCormick is worthy patron.

Last night. Sessions end today.

The Evolution of A Yank in Darwin

MELBOURNE, May 15 (U. P.).—An American soldier, newly arrived in Melbourne, describes life in Port Darwin.

"It's this way, buddy. When you're there a few weeks you find yourself talking to yourself. After that, you find yourself talking to the lizards. After another couple of weeks, you find the lizards talking to you. Then you find yourself listening."

MUNCIE MAN HEADS PERSONNEL GROUP

Ray Warren of Muncie has been elected president of the Indiana Personnel Conference, succeeding Tom Lane.

Cyrus Wood of Indianapolis was named vice president. He succeeds Wallace O. Lee who asked that his name be withdrawn because of other duties.

James R. Young, authority on the Far East, spoke to the conference last night. Sessions end today.

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